

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION JEC PARIS

TREASURY WASHDC

INFO USSAGE NKP THAI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SUVA

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 3 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

US MIL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS FLY PORTABLE COMSAT

SYSTEM TO SJIGON LEDNESDAY TO REPLACE US CABLE TERMINAL

LOST WHEN NHA TRANG FELL TO COMMUNISTS; SAID INSTALLED

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AT US MIL HQ ON OUTSKIRTS SAIGON; PROVIDES 12-CIRCUIT

TELEPHONE LINK TO US (UPI, NYT, NYDN).

MOBIL AND US SHELL AFFILIATE (VPECTEN VIETNAM) HALT OIL EXPLORATION OFF VN COAST TUESDAY; OIL FIRMS SEND DEPENDENTS NEARBY SAFE HAVENS. HOWARD HUGHES GLOBAL MARINE, DRILLING FOR MOBIL, ALSO ORDERED HALT (UPI, NYT, JOC). MACARTHUR (LAT) SAYS FUTURE DEPENDS ON OUTCOME OF NVA OFFENSIVE; NOTES SEVEN CONSORTIA PAID ABOUT 50 MILLION DOLS FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING RIGHTS. TANNER (WSJ-NY) SAYS OFFSHORE OPERATIONS 100-200 MILES SE SAIGON NOT DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY NVA ADVANCE, BUT FIRMS WATCHING SIT CLOSELY; SOME SEEM FEEL CHANCE CONTINUE OPERATE OFFSHORE, EVEN IF NVN TAKES OVER.

NESSEN SAYS WH RULES OUT POSSIBILITY USING US BOMBERS TO STEM COMMUNIST ONSLAUGHT IN SVN, REQUESTS FOR FURTHER AID DEPEND UPON WEYAND'S REPORT, AND PRES WOULD ANSWER QUESTIONS ON SVN AT TV PRESS CONFERENCE APR 3 AT 3 PM EST (HEALY, NYDN; PHINQ). VP ROCKY PERCEIVED LITTLE US CAN DO NOW TO HELP REVERSE MIL TIDE (FINNY, NYT; PHINQ). LATER REVERSED SELF AND SAID SITUATION NOT HOPELESS (UPI, NYDN; GETLER, WP). SECSTATE REFUSED COMMENT ON FIRST ROCKY REMARK, SAID "I CAN'T BELIEVE HE SAID IT" (PHINQ).

SECDEF AT NEWS CONFERENCE SAID US RE-ENTRY INTO SVN NOT LIKELY (CSM), NEXT 30 DAYS WILL DETERMINE IF SVN CAN SURVIVE (FINNEY, NYT - IN USIA WIRELESS FILE), SEES ABANDONMENT OF 2/3 OF SVN AS TRAGIC DEFEAT FOR GVN (GETLER, WP - IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). SCHLESINGER PESSIMISTIC ON VN (CORDDRY, SUN - IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). SECDEF SAID WHETHER LINE CAN BE ESTABLISHED NORTH OF SAIGON PERMITTING GVN CONTROL OF CAPITAL AREA AND DELTA "REMAINS TO BE SEEN" (PHINQ). LAT'S JOHNSTON (GLOBE) CALLS SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT "GLOOMIEST" PUBLIC ASSESSMENT OF DEBACLE BY ANY ADMIN OFFICIAL SO FAR. OPINES THAT BECOMING APPARENT THAT SYMPATHY AND PERHAPS SOME ADDED MIL AID ABOUT ALL US HAS LEFT TO OFFER. QUOTES ROCKY'S OFFICE THAT VP MEANT REFUGEE SITUATION WHEN SAID TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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MANSFIELD THAT DOUBTFUL IF CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE MORE MIL AID BUT HE ASSUMED HUMANITARIAN AID WOULD BE EXTENDED.

REP UDALL WARNS ADMIN THAT WOULD MAKE MISTAKE IF TRIES BLAME LOSS OF INDOCHINA ON CONGRESS. SFRC SENDS MOOSE AND MEISSNER TO SVN FOR FIRST-HAND REPORT. SEN BUCKLEY URGES PRIVATE AND GOVT AGENCIES AID VN REFUGEES. SEN RANDOLPH ASKS PRES APPEAL TO UN FOR REFUGEE AID.

SEN KENNEDY URGES PRES SEND SPECIAL ENVOY TO SVN TO PURSUE INITIATIVES FOR "HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES" (LYONS, WP). KENNEDY AND UDALL URGE PROMPT HUMANITARIAN AID TO SVN. SEN TUNNEY PROPOSES US GIVE ASYLUM TO GVN LEADERS IF OFFENSIVE TOPPLES GOVT (SEHLSTEDT, SUN). SEN BROOKE REPEATED OPPOSITION TO MORE MIL AID TO INDOCHINA, CALLED FOR HUMANITARIAN AID. SEN PASTORE SAYS AID FOR SVN SHOULD GO THROUGH VOLAGS, OPPOSES MORE MIL AID (GLOBE). 130 SEA SPECIALISTS AT ANNUAL MEETING OF ASSN FOR ASIAN STUDIES IN SF, PETITIONED CONGRESS NOT APPROPRIATE MORE FUNDS TO SUPPORT CONTINUING WARFARE IN SVN AND CAMBODIA (NYT).

GEN GAVIN OPINES SVN SITUATION "NOT REVERSIBLE," SAYS US SHOULD NOT SEND MORE MIL AID (FINNEY, NYT). BAO DAI IN NICE OFFERED ARBITRATE PEACE IN SVN, CALLED FOR FORMATION OF GOVT OF NATL UNION (GLOBE). POPE CALLS FOR SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR VN (NYT). GLOBE'S NOLAN GIVES SERIES OF 1969 QUOTES FROM LEADING FIGURES IN VN DRAMA.

AMEMBASSY PP BEGINS EVACUATE 15 PERCENT OF 200-MEMBER STAFF TO BANGKOK THURSDAY, AFTER FALL OF NEAK LUONG. DCM KEELY SAYS "TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL" OF 25-30 NON-ESSENTIAL US OFFICIALS, PLUS YET-DETERMINED NUMBER VOLAGS, CONTRACTORS, TC DIPLOMATS WILL TAKE THREE DAYS; HINTED US EVACUEES MIGHT RETURN IF CONGRESS VOTES SUPPLEMENTAL TO MAINTAIN AIRLIFT. (AP, PHINQ, SUN, NYDN, GLOBE, CSM; UPI, WP).

DOS SPOKESMAN SAID WEDNESDAY EVACUATION DECISION ASKED BY AMB DEAN, WHO CITED "DANGER OF INDISCRIMINATE FIRING" (WP). ANDELMAN (NYT) QUOTES KEELY'S "UNUSUAL ON-THE-RECORD PRESS CONFERENCE," SAYING MOVE WON'T HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON GKR, FANK SINCE US PRESENCE PP "WILL STILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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VERY LARGE AND VISIBLE;" ALSO NOTES LITTLE DOUBT US DECISION "MAJOR PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOW" TO GKR.

GRC EMBASSY EVACUATES "UNANNOUNCED" VIA TAIWANESE PLANE, LEAVING US, GVN, ROK ONLY AMBASSADORIAL MISSIONS PP (AP, GLOBE, NYDN). ANDELMAN SAYS REMAINING STAFF JAPANESE EMBASSY PLANS LEAVE SATURDAY ON US EVACUATION FLIGHT.

US AIRLIFT CONTINUES, DESPITE POCHENTONG SHELLING IN WHICH ONE PLANE DAMAGED, ONE US CIVILIAN PILOT INJURED (AP, PHINQ, NYDN, GLOBE, SUN).

SVN AMB TO US CHARGES US FAILED LIVE UP TO C-F COMMITMENTS, COMMENTS "PROBABLY SAFER" TO BE COMMUNIST ALLY AND FATAL

TO BE US ALLY (FINNEY, NYT). PHUONG'S COMMENTS ON CBS MORNING NEWS WERE MOST BITTER OF ANY TOP GVN OFFICIAL SINCE OFFENSIVE BEGAN (API, NYEN). DOS' ANDERSON DID NOT DISPUTE PHUONG'S IMPLICATION THAT US HAD PROMISED AT TIME OF C-F THAT IT "WOULD RE-INTERVENE MILITARILY" IN EVENT OF MASSIVE HANOI VIOLATION. OBSERVERS LONG BELIEVED US GAVE GVN SOME FORM OF UNWRITTEN ASSURANCE TO PERSUADE THEM SIGN C-F. WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY BLAMING CONGRESS, ANDERSON ADDED US UNABLE SUPPLY GVN ON ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT BASIS (UPI, GLOBE). WP'S MARDER REVIEWS PHUONG'S STATEMENTS, DISCUSSES US EFFORTS IN SVN TO EVACUATE ITS VIET EMPLOYEES FROM FALLEN AREAS (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). AMERICANS FAILED HELP NHA TRANG STAFF ESCAPE, LEFT BEHIND OVER 100 VIET EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES (UPI, NYT).

WEYAND MET WITH THIEU ON WAYS SAVE SVN FROM COLLAPSE AND COMMUNIST TAKEOVER (MCCOMBS/OBERDORFER, WP - IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). BATTLE TIMING NOW IN NVA HANDS AND THEY COULD LAUNCH ATTACK AGAINST SAIGON WITHIN 4-5 DAYS (MIDDLETON, NYT - IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). THIEU UNWITTINGLY PROMPTED DEBACLE BY DECIDING GIVE UP HIGHLANDS TO STRENGTHEN ARVN AND REPEL COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE (UPI, NYDN). FOREIGN NEWSMEN ASSAILED IN SVN WHERE ARMY PAPER ASSERTS THEY PLAYED MAJOR PART IN COMMUNIST SUCCESSES BY REVEALING MIL SECRETS. ARVN INDISCIPLINE UNCLASSIFIED

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SPREADING AND GVN BUREAUCRACY APPEARS TO BE BREAKING DOWN IN SOME AREAS. US EMBASSY "HAS LARGELY CLOSED ITS DOORS TO NEWSMEN" (BUTTERFIELD, NYT).

SVN SENATE VOTES RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NEW LEADERSHIP TO END FIGHTING. VOTE HAS NO BINDING EFFECT BUT ADDS TO POLITICAL PRESSURE ON THIEU. PREMIER KHIEM REMAINS IN POWER DESPITE REPORTS HE HAD RESIGNED (GLOBE; AP, SUN). PRESSURE FOR RESIGNATION OF THIEU MOUNTS AS COMMUNISTS ADVANCE AND MIL SITUATION DETERIORATES. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SPECULATE OUSTER OF THIEU COULD BRING END TO FIGHTING. NVA NOW CONTROL 17 PROVS, 2/3 OF TERRITORY AND OVER HALF SVN POPULATION AS CAM RANH, DALAT, PHAN RANG AND PHAN THIET ABANDONED (PHINQ). NBC/TV RECEIVED REPORT THIEU'S FAMILY LEFT SAIGON FOR TAIWAN. TROOPS TAKE UP COMBAT POSITIONS AROUND PRES PALACE AS SVN SENATE CALLS FOR LEADERSHIP CHANGE. FEWER THAN 5000 SVN REGULARS STAND IN WAY OF COMMUNIST ASSAULT ON SAIGON FROM COAST (WP). THIEU AND US CRITICIZED IN SVN SENATE. RUMORS OF MAJOR GVN CHANGES CIRCULATE AS THEY HAVE FOR LAST 2 WKS (NYT).

US C-5 EN ROUTE TO SAIGON WITH 87 ARTILLERY PIECES FOR ARVN IN 2ND SUCH FLIGHT TO REPLACE LOST AND ABANDONED GUNS (AP, SUN). NYT'S BROWNE IN SAIGON REPORTS GVN GENERALS TRY PREVENT COMPLETE ARMY COLLAPSE AS VANGUARD OF REFUGEES HOST BEGINS FLOW INTO CAPITAL. GVN COMMUNIQUE IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED LOSS OF MRS I AND II. WP'S WOOLACOTT IN SAIGON FINDS FEAR AND FANTASY RULING (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). CAPITAL IMPERILED BY 2 COMMUNIST FORCES, FROM NORTH AND COAST. US REFUGEE SEALIFT OUT OF NHA TRANG HALTED (NYDN). HEAVY FIGHTING REPORTED 38 MILES EAST OF SAIGON (UPI, GLOBE). STORIN (GLOBE) FINDS SAIGON SUPERFICIALLY CALM AS ANTITANK BARRIERS GO UP. NYT'S WEINRAUB AT SAIGON BELIEVES CITY IS ON BRINK OF CHAOS AS FEAR AND RUMOR BREED (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). PANIC GRIPS SAIGON RESIDENTS AS US MEN STORM AMEMBASSY TO MARRY VIET COMMON LAW WIVES (AP SUN, GLOBE).

IN PARIS VC REP TELLS NEWS CONFERENCE PRG WOULD OPEN TALKS IF THIEU REPLACED BY GOVT WILLING ENDORSE C-F (PHINQ; UNCLASSIFIED

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UPI, NYDN; WP), CALLS US EVACUATION EFFORT MIL OPERATION DISGUISED AS HUMANITARIAN EFFORT, AND IS ACT OF WAR THAT VC WILL RESIST (UPI, NYDN). VC STATED TERMS FOR RENEWAL OF PEACE TALKS: OUSTER OF THIEU AND COMPLETE CESSATION OF US MIL INVOLVEMENT, INCLUDING REFUGEE EVACUATION (LEWTHWAITE, SUN). VC OFFICIALS IN PARIS ISSUE SERIES OF STATEMENTS CALLING FOR UPRISING AGAINST GVN AND NEGOTIATED END TO FIGHTING. ANNOUNCEMENT SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF PRESSURE ON THIEU TO STEP DOWN. VC STATEMENTS INCLUDE 7-POINT POLICY DECLARATION CALLING ON ALL TO JOIN VC CAUSE (LEWIS, NYT). NYT PRINTS VERBATIM TEXT OF VC POLICY STATEMENT. VC IN SAIGON CLAIM LIFE IN HUE, QUANG NGAI AND SEVERAL OTHER AREAS HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL AND THAT MANY GVN OFFICERS AND WORKERS THERE HAVE JOINED THEIR SIDE (AP, NYT). HANOI DOES NOT CELEBRATE MIL SUCCESS IN SVN THOUGH NEWS WIDESPREAD (AFP, WP).

US LEGAL AUTHORITIES QUIETLY EXPLORE WAYS ARRANGE C-F TO PERMIT EVACUATION OF PERHAPS UP TO 1 MILLION VIET REFUGEES ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. UN AND RED CROSS ARE POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO GAIN COMMUNIST CO-OPERATION, ACCORDING US OFFICIALS. BEFORE REFUGEES COULD ENTER US, WH WOULD HAVE TO DECLARE FORMALLY THAT THEY FULFILL UN DEFINITION OF "REFUGEE." DOS OFFICIALS CALL EVACUATION TALK PREMATURE AT THIS POINT (AP SUN, NYDN). US OFFICIALS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH 100,000 VIETS WHO WORKED CLOSELY WITH AMERICANS (PHINQ).

SAVE THE CHILDREN FEDERATION SAYS LOST CONTACT WITH

MANY STAFF MEMBERS AND CENTERS IN INTERIOR SVN (UPI, NYT). SEC GEN BARS UN PLEA ON REFUGEES SINCE WAR GOING ON AND VC/NVN HAVE GIVEN ASSURANCES REFUGEES LOOKED AFTER (HOFMANN, NYT - IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). WALDHEIM OBJECTED TO WP STORY THAT HE SHOWED SIGN SUBMITTING TO COMMUNIST AND THIRD WORLD PRESSURE IN WAY HE DRAFTED APPEAL FOR INDOCHINA REFUGEES (WP).

MRS. FORD SAYS DEPRESSED BY PLIGHT OF VIET REFUGEES (UPI WP, NYT). AID ANNOUNCES WILL FLY 2000 VIET ORPHANS TO US IN AIRLIFT THAT WILL START IN 2 DAYS. ALL HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADOPTED BY US FAMILIES (AP NY, SUN).
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MOST PAPERS FEATURE PHOTOS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF PLIGHT OF REFUGEES IN SVN. ALMOST ALL FEATURE STORIES CONCERNING WORLD AIRLINES FLIGHT THAT BRINGS 57 ORPHANS TO US AGAINST REGULATIONS, AND OFFERS OF AID FOR REFUGEES AND ORPHANS FROM DIVERSE GROUPS.

WP'S GREENWAY DESCRIBES REFUGEE-PACKED VUNG TAU. NYT'S PETERSON DESCRIBES CAM RANH AND ITS ROLE DURING US PRESENCE. CSM'S MCBRIDE TELLS OF ANTI-THIEU VIET STUDENT AT MIT WHO NOW FACES DEPORTATION FROM US BECAUSE OF "TERMINATION OF HIS SCHOLARSHIP" BY USG AS RESULT OF ANTI-WAR ACTIVITIES. WITH 6 OTHERS IN LA, STUDENT SEEKS POLITICAL ASYLUM IN US. NYDN'S BRIAN SMITH INTERVIEWS VIET VET WHO NOW SEES US INVESTMENT IN SVN AS WASTE.

OFFICIAL SOURCES SAY KR FORCES BROKE THROUGH DEFENSE LINE ALONG DIKE 5 MILES NW OF PP IN HEAVY FIGHTING WEDNESDAY NIGHT. FANK MOVED REINFORCEMENTS TO AREA, BUT AS OF MORNING POSITION NOT CLEAR. SOURCES ALSO SAY FANK GAVE GROUND E, S, W OF CITY IN FURIOUS FIGHTING HEARD IN CAPITAL. MORE THAN 60 ROCKETS, 105MM ROUNDS FALL IN PP WEDNESDAY, MAINLY ON AIRPORT (UPI, WP; AP, NYDN).

SIMONS (WP) REPORTS FANK MORALE NON-EXISTENT WITH NEWS OF KR VICTORIES IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT AT NEAK LUONG, BANAM. SAYS MIL OBSERVERS BELIEVE COMMUNISTS "CERTAIN" LAUNCH ALL-OUT ATTACK ON POCHENTONG BY TIME PRES. FORD ADDRESSES CONGRESS WEDNESDAY. NOTES REASON BELIEVE KR DELAY BIG PUSH BECAUSE OF HEAVY LOSSES, LAGGING NVN AMMO SHIPMENTS THAT CAN'T KEEP PACE WITH NEEDS.

TEN NAVY GUNBOATS WITH SURVIVORS OF TWO-MONTH NEAK LUONG SIEGE REACH PP WEDNESDAY; TELL OF BLOODY FIGHTING, CHAOS AS KR PUSHED LAST DEFENDERS OUT (PHINQ). LELYVELD (NYT) DESCRIBES ORDEAL, INTERVIEWS SURVIVORS.

IN BANGKOK KUKRIT TOLD PRESS THURSDAY HAD REPORT PP
HAD FALLEN TO COMMUNISTS, FROM "MY MOST RELIABLE
SOURCE." BUT PP-HK COMMUNICATIONS REMAIN OPEN, AND
UPI CORRESPONDENT MESSAGED "PHNOM PENH IS STILL HERE."
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(AP, GLOBE, CSM). WP SAYS REUTER REPORTED KUKRIT
STATEMENT, THAN KILLED; DOD SPOKESMAN DENIED REPORT;
KYODO IN TOKYO QUOTED JAPANESE AMBASSADOR PP STILL IN
GKR HANDS.

SIHANOUK IN PEKING SAYS WILL GIVE NO MORD INTRVIEWS
TO WESTERN PRESS BECAUSE OF "MISREPRESENTATIONS" (CSM).
SIHANOUK RULES OUT GRUNK COMPROMISE WITH GKR (SUN-HK).

2. JAPAN

WSJ (TOKYO 4/1) NOTES SONY EARNINGS SLUMPED 48 PERCENT
FIRST QUARTER ENDING JAN 31, TO 19.4 MILLION DOLS.
ADR NET FELL BY HALF TO 12 CENTS. DECLINE WHOLLY DUE
FALLING DOMESTIC SALES, AS EXPORTS ROSE 15 PERCENT.

JOC (TOKYO 4/2) REPORTS WORLD'S STRICTEST EMISSION
CONTROLS TOOK EFFECT TUESDAY, PATTERNED AFTER MUSKIE
LAW. IMPORTS EXEMPT FOR ONE YEAR.

KUBOTA SAYS NEGOTIATING 345 MILLION DOL CONTRACTS TO
BUILD MASSIVE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS IN KUWAIT, TEHRAN,

IRAQ; ALREADY SIGNED CONTRACT SUPPLY 10,000 TONS CAST
IRON PIPE EGYPT, 2,000 TONS SYRIA (JOC-TOKYO).

MOF TUESDAY REPORTED DIRECT PRIVATE OVERSEAS INVESTMENT
DROPPED ABOUT ONE THIRD TO 2.2 BILLION DOLS IN JFY 74;
TOTAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT NOW STANDS ABOUT 12.4 BILLION
DOLS (JOC -TOKYO).

3. KOREA

NYT (SEOUL) CITES REP FRASER PRESS STATEMENT WEDNESDAY
US SHOULD CONDITION AID TO ALLIED ON STRONG COMMITMENT
TO DEMOCRACY; CLAIMED US NOT "SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR" ON
THIS POINT. SAID CONGRESS "CONCERNED" ABOUT ROK
RESTRICTIONS ON SK PRESS. "REGRETTE" ROKG EFFORTS
"ISOLATE" HIM FROM DISSIDENTS (REUTER).

SUN'S PEPPER IN CODEL ROUNDUP NOTES FRASER VISIT TO
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SEOUL, MANILA, TO UPDATE INFO ON REPRESSION OF DISSIDENTS.
NOTES VALUE SUCH TRIPS MUCH-DEBATED.

RIOT POLICE FIRE TEAR GAS TO BREAK UP ANTI-GOVT MARCH
BY 200 YONSEI STUDENTS TUESDAY (REUTER, CHITRIB; WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

4. INDOCHINA

NYDN SAYS IF WORLD AIRWAYS PLANES UNFIT TO FLY OUT
VIET ORPHANS THE USG SHOULD FIND SOME THAT ARE, AND
FAST. INCLUDES CARTOON OF PLANE CARRYING CHILDREN
OUT OF DARKND S LABELLED "OUT OF VIET MADNESS."

JERRY GREENE IN NYDN SAYS PRES URGENTLY SEEKING
INFORMATION ABOUT VIET SITUATION. ROCKEFELLER
STATEMENT MADE PRES' TASK NO EASIER. DECISION HE MAY
MAKE TODAY CAN EASILY BE OVERTAKEN BY VN TOMORROW.
SPECULATES ON LIKLIHOOD OF PRES ASKING FOR MORE AID.
THE NATION'S BUSINESS WILL BE THE LOSER IN THE
INEVITABLE PERIOD OF RECRIMINATIONS TO COME.

ANTHONY LEWIS IN NYT QUOTES REP CP MCCLOSKEY'S RECENT
COMMENT FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM VN TO EFFECT THAT
WHAT USG HAS DONE IN VN IS GREATER EVIL THAN WE HAVE
DONE ANYWHERE ELSE IN WORLD. URGES THAT WE MAKE CERTAIN
FUTURE LEADERS CAN NEVER AGAIN MAKE SECRET DECISIONS
AND PURSUE A DESTRUCTIVE POLICY (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

BALT SUN SAYS ONLY USG PERSISTS IN FICTION THAT NOTHING
LEFT TO DO IN CAMB EXCEPT TO TURN OVER POWER TO SIHANOUK
AND ALLIES. SAYS SIHANOUK HAS INTEREST AND CAPABILITY
OF MINIMIZING COMMUNIST ROLE IN ANY NEW CAMB REGIME
(SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

DAVID ROGERS IN BOST GLOBE SAYS IT'S ONLY MATTER OF SHORT
TIME BEFORE SAIGON FALLS. QUOTES SCHOLARS SUCH AS
TALBOT HUEY AND FAIRBANK THAT TIME FAST RUNNING OUT AND
THAT CURRENT DISINTEGRATION SIMILAR TO OTHERS IN ASIAN
HISTORY WHEN MANDATE OF HEAVEN LOST. QUOTES REISCHAUER
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TO EFFECT HE NOT SURPRISED AND SAYS FUTURE BELONG TO
COMMUNISTS IN VN AND CAMB.

HERBLOCK CARTOON IN WP SHOWS CANNON LABELLED "BLAME CONGRESS" BLOWING UP IN THE FACE OF ADMINISTRATION.

JOSEPH C. HARSCH IN CSM SAYS TO MINIMIZE THE EFFECT OF THE LOSS OF CAMB AND VN WOULD BE AS BAD AS TO EXAGGERATE IT. NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT US INFLUENCE IN WORLD WILL SERIOUSLY BE IMPAIRED. ALLIES BELIEVE SEASIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A DRAIN ON US STRENGTH. WE MAY HAVE LOST A SIGNIFICANT BATTLE BUT NOT THE WAR.

SIR ROBERT THOMPSON IN NYT SAYS NVN IS IN A CAN'T LOSE SITUATION HOLDING STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND CAN CHOOSE POINTS OF ATTACK WHILE SOUTH IS TIED DOWN TO FIXED DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. A NEW FOREIGN POLICY LINE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE US: IF YOU SURRENDER, THE KILLING WILL STOP (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT SAYS CALLS FOR THE FORMATION OF A VN GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WHICH CAN HELP FIND A NEGOTIABLE SOLUTION. ASKS FOR INSTANT AID TO REFUGEES (SEE USIA WIRELESS FILE).

WSTAR SAYS THIEU'S DEPARTURE MIGHT PERMIT LESS COMPROMISED SUCCESSOR TO SALVAGE SOMETHING FROM THE UNMITIGATED DISASTER.

BOB GREENE IN LAT (4/2) SAYS ALL WHO OPPOSED THE WAR NOW VINDICATED. ONLY DEATH WITHOUT MEANING IS ITS LEGACY.

LAT (4/2) SAYS LOSS OF INDOCHINA NOT DAMAGING IN ANY GREAT WAY TO US WORLD POSITION. TO THINK SO, AS DID HAK, IS TO LEAD TO THE VERY ISOLATIONISM THE ADMINISTRATION HAS WARNED AGAINST.

BOST GLOBE (4/2) SAYS WHAT HAPPENING IN VN IS EXACTLY WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO IF LBJ HAD NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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SENT HALF A MILLION US TROOPS. IF ANYTHING HAS WEAKENED US CREDIBILITY IT IS 30 YEARS OF COSTLY INVOLVEMENT ON WRONG SIDE OF THE WAR. CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT AND RECONSTRUCTION OF ALL VN.

BRADSHAW IN WSTAR NOTES NO SIGN OF A BATTLE LINE BEING FORMED EAST OF SAIGON. NO GREAT NVN BLITZ BROUGHT ABOUT SVN COLLAPSE.

OSWALD JOHNSTON IN LAT (4/2) SAYS US INTELLIGENCE

FAILURE WAS INABILITY TO FORESEE SVN COLLJP E. NVN
CAPABILITY OF ATTACK WELL KNOWN.

5. KOREA

NYT'S HALLORAN IN SEOUL STATES AUTHORITATIVE US MIL,
W DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SEE LITTLE DANGER OF NEW KOREAN
WAR DESPITE COMMUNIST ADVANCES IN SEA, RISING TENSION
IN ME. SAYS QUESTION BEING CONSIDERED AT SENIOR MIL,
DIPLOMATIC LEVELS BECAUSE IN PAST NK BELLIGERENT
WHEN US PREOCCUPIED ELSEWHERE, AS IN 1968 WHEN STAGED
COMMANDO RAID ON BLUE HOUSE, SEIZED PUEBLO, SHOT DOWN
EC-121. NOTES SECDEF RECENT POSTURE STATEMENT THAT
SK "STRONGPOINT" FOR US FORCES AND CONTINUED US TROOP
PRESENCE SHOULD HELP DETER NK. INGERSOLL

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED AMEMBASSIES BUDAPEST, RANGOON AND SUVA.

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NNN

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